



## Governors' Newsletter

Dear Parents,

As the Autumn term draws to a close and Christmas rapidly approaches, it seems an opportune time to review how the new academic year 2016/17 has gone so far.

As governors, we are involved in a variety of issues; finance, pupil welfare, policies, staffing and building/grounds maintenance to name but a few. However, we consider that our most important role without doubt is to ensure the welfare and education of our pupils.

Using our experience from a variety of backgrounds, governors work closely with Mrs. Minihan and the Senior Leadership Team to provide the very best learning and development opportunities that we can for all children at the Annunciation Catholic Junior School. Governors believe that it is every child's right to have a first class education in order to develop his/her full potential intellectually, spiritually, physically, morally, socially and emotionally so that he/she becomes a responsible and caring young person who contributes to the Common Good.

Although Mrs. Minihan is responsible for the day to day management of the school, governors involve themselves as much as possible in the life of the school and take opportunities to see at first hand how pupils are educated. During their visits to the school this year, governors noted the hard work of pupils in all subject areas and have been impressed by the calm purposeful atmosphere in classes together with the enthusiasm of staff and pupils alike.

At the Annunciation Catholic Junior School, pupils' attendance levels continue to be among the highest in Barnet. Pupils are happy to come to school and this in turn has a positive effect on their learning. The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum which pupils enjoy and every child is encouraged by dedicated and experienced staff to be the best they can be in a safe and secure environment. Despite the current financial restraints on schools, children who experience barriers to their learning continue to receive the help and support necessary to get the most out of their time at school.

Last Summer 67% of year 6 pupils achieved/exceeded the expected Key Stage 2 standard in the Reading, Mathematics, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar tests against the national average of

## THE ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

53%. These results are not comparable to test results from previous years which were assessed under an entirely different system. The 2016 results are a reflection of how well children performed this year against a new curriculum.

In November, the school was involved in a review during which its work in all areas was scrutinised by a team of four visiting 'inspectors'. To all intents and purposes, this review was akin to a mock Ofsted inspection. You will be pleased to hear that at the end of the third day the school was judged good in all areas.

Governors present at the consultation evenings in October were afforded the opportunity to hear your views on your child's/children's progress and gauge your level of satisfaction with the school in general. All parents spoken to without exception told us that their children were happy at school, enjoyed their lessons and were making progress in their learning. The views of parents are important to governors as are any ideas for possible improvements. The Governing Body can be contacted by writing to the Clerk to the Governing Body at the school address.

I would like to thank Mrs. Minihan and all the staff of the school for their hard work and commitment and all parents for their continuing support of the school and their contribution to the Governors' Fund which enables us to improve and enhance your children's school.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas let us take time to thank God for all the graces and blessings bestowed on us during the past year and to support, in whatever way we can, those less fortunate than ourselves.

Finally, on behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2017.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely

Mrs Anne O'Shea  
Chair of Governors

